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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Ukrainczyk, et al.

Serial No: 09/832668

Art Group Unit: 1731

Filing Date: April 11, 2001

Examiner: John Hoffmann

Title: FILAMENT HOUSING FOR FIBER  
SPLICING AND LENS FABRICATION  
PROCESSES

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In the Office Action dated November 18, 2003, designated as Paper No. 31113 in the above-captioned application, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

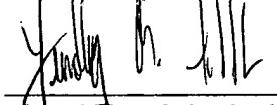
Group I. Claims 1-18, drawn to an apparatus for a fusion process, classified in class 65, subclass 501;

Group II. Claims 19-28, drawn to a method for extending a lifetime of a filament, classified in class 65 subclass 387.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, without traverse.

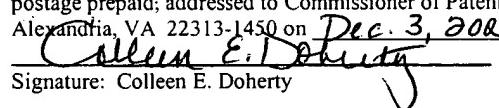
Please direct any questions or comments to Timothy M. Schaeberle at 607-974-3164.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Timothy M. Schaeberle  
Registration No. 34,424  
Corning Incorporated  
Patent Department, SP-TI-03-1  
Corning, NY 14831

Date: 12-3-03

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8:** I  
hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are  
being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail,  
postage prepaid; addressed to Commissioner of Patents,  
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Signature: Colleen E. Doherty